

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A sterile apparatus to protect endoscope(s) comprising:
an impact resistant housing having an outer surface defining an opening, an interior of the housing defining a canal having a first end communicating with the opening and a second end terminating within the housing for receiving a distal lens of an endoscope;
a defogging material disposed adjacent to the second end of the canal for defogging a distal lens of an endoscope when inserted within the canal; and
a self-sealing mechanism disposed within the canal, the self-sealing mechanism being configured to allow for an endoscope to enter the canal and make contact with the defogging material and to prevent the defogging material from spilling out of the canal.
2. (Previously Presented) An apparatus to protect endoscope(s) as in claim 1, wherein the canal is shaped for receiving a plurality of types of endoscopes.
3. (Previously Presented) An apparatus to protect endoscope(s) as in claim 1, wherein the apparatus is made of disposable material.

4. (Previously Presented) An apparatus to protect endoscope(s) as in claim 1, wherein the canal is complementarily shaped to that of an endoscope to be received therein.
5. (Previously Presented) An apparatus to protect endoscope(s) as in claim 1, wherein the apparatus is configured to protect endoscopes during intermittent use.
6. (Previously Presented) An apparatus to protect endoscope(s) as in claim 1, wherein the apparatus is configured to protect endoscopes during transportation.
7. (Previously Presented) An apparatus to protect endoscope(s) as in claim 1, wherein the interior of the housing includes:
 - a storage sheath defining the canal, the outer surface of the housing and the storage sheath defining a cavity therebetween; and
 - an impact absorbing material substantially filling the cavity.
8. (Previously Presented) An apparatus to protect endoscope(s) as in claim 7, wherein the impact absorbing material is Styrofoam.
9. (Previously Presented) An apparatus to protect endoscope(s) as in claim 7, wherein the impact absorbing material is a gel.
10. (Previously Presented) An apparatus to protect endoscope(s) as in claim 7, wherein the impact absorbing material is a liquid.

11. (Previously Presented) An apparatus to protect endoscope(s) as in claim 7, wherein the impact absorbing material is a gas.

12. (Previously Presented) An apparatus to protect endoscope(s) as in claim 1, further comprising means for removably affixing the housing to a surface.

13. (Previously Presented) An apparatus to protect endoscope(s) as in claim 1, further comprising:

an anchor; and

a cord attached to the housing and the anchor.

14. (Previously Presented) An apparatus to protect endoscope(s) as in claim 13, wherein the cord is removably attachable to the housing.

15. (Previously Presented) An apparatus to protect endoscope(s) as in claim 13, wherein the anchor is removably attachable to a surface.

16-41. (Canceled)

42. (Previously Presented) An apparatus to protect endoscope(s) as in claim 1, further comprising a reservoir communicating with the second end of the canal for accommodating the defogging material.

43. (New) A sterile apparatus for protecting an endoscope comprising:
- a substantially triangular tubular impact resistant housing including:
 - an outer surface defining an opening and vents;
 - an interior of the housing defining a canal having a first end communicating with the opening and a second end terminating within the housing for receiving a distal lens of an endoscope, wherein defogging material is disposed adjacent to the second end of the canal for defogging a distal lens of an endoscope when inserted within the canal;
 - a self-sealing mechanism disposed adjacent the first end of the canal and being configured to allow for an endoscope to enter the canal and make contact with the defogging material and to prevent the defogging material from spilling out of the canal;
 - at least one first inner chamber abutting the second end of the canal and containing an unoxidized material selected from the group consisting of: iron, vercumilite, activate charcoal and water, wherein at least one of the at least one first inner chamber is in fluid communication with the vents;
 - at least one second inner chamber abutting the at least one first inner chamber with a penetrable thin film disposed therebetween and containing hydrogen peroxide; and
 - at least one surface of the housing having a solid flap that is mounted to an end of the at least one triangular surface via a hinge-like connection, wherein at least one surface of the solid flap is coated by an adhesive; and
 - wherein the impact resistant housing is constructed of a shock absorbing material;

a plunger cylinder mounted in the second inner chamber that is configured to penetrate the thin film between the at least one first inner chamber and the at least one second inner chamber;

a sponge mounted on the outer surface of the housing;

a removable vent cover disposed on the vents; and

a removable protective cover disposed on the at least one surface of the solid flap that is coated by the adhesive.